

CREATION

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Wheels within wheels

In October 1900 a group of sponge divers explored part of the seabed near the island of Antikythera, roughly halfway between Greece and Crete. To their great surprise, one of them found what appeared to be people and horses lying on the sea-floor. Further investigations showed that these were statuary from an ancient shipwreck. The authorities were notified and in due course a great variety of objects were retrieved, including a statue of a philosopher's head, a marble bull and a bronze lyre.

The most remarkable discovery however was not a statue at all. In May 1902 a small item was retrieved that had a cogwheel protruding from it. Upon further study it was found to be a highly complex bronze mechanism of interacting cog wheels that had been contained in a wooden box. Recent X-ray analysis has shown that it was a hand-wound clockwork device used to calculate the motions of the sun, moon and planets as seen from Earth, as well as to predict solar and lunar eclipses.

The device incorporated state of the art astronomical knowledge and a sophistication of design that is equalled only by

present-day engineering skills. The dials use the fact that 235 lunar months fit almost exactly into 19 solar years. Another dial uses the knowledge that eclipse patterns repeat over the 223 months of an 18 year cycle. The exact time and duration of eclipses are inscribed on the dials. Wheels within wheels accommodate the moon's varying speed of rotation – small wheels riding around on bigger wheels, a construction known as epicyclic gearing. All this was achieved with accurately machined cogs which multiplied the speed of rotation by precise mathematical ratios depending on the number of teeth on each wheel.



A large fragment of the device.
Image: Wikipedia, under GNU Free
Documentation Licence version 1.2.

Inscriptions on the device date it to about 150-100BC. Other items from the wreck show that it was on a Roman ship sailing from Greece around 65BC. Scholars have speculated that the ship was heading to Rome from Rhodes, where one of the greatest Greek astronomers, Hipparchus, lived and worked.

Collaborative investigations into this extraordinary device are continuing under the aegis of the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project (website at [www. antikythera-mechanism.gr/project/overview](http://www.antikythera-mechanism.gr/project/overview)). It has also featured recently in an article in *New Scientist* magazine. In terms of its historical scientific importance, it has been described as more valuable than the *Mona Lisa*.

Surprise has been expressed at the amazing complexity of a device from a culture that was supposedly far inferior to the technological progress of modern man. However, those who are familiar with the Bible know that one should not be surprised at all. Even in pre-Flood times, men worked with bronze and knew about the fourth day of creation. Noah and his family would have carried some of this ancient knowledge with them and would have passed it on to their descendants in the post-Flood world.

In fact, there are many examples of highly sophisticated engineering from ancient cultures around the world. They include high-precision pressure-drilling, extremely accurate masonry cutting and laying, and even evidence of flying machines. Many of these have been documented in a book by Dr. Donald Chittick*. What do these things indicate? Far from being a slow evolutionary progress over millions of years, the history of mankind is of an intelligent crea-

tive being, made in the image of God, and not derived from an animal.

DR & RC

*Dr. Donald Chittick, 2006, *The Puzzle of Ancient Man*, 274 pp, paperback, £8-50, available from CSM.

Getting Big Ideas

One Saturday in January, a friend and I visited and carefully studied the 'Darwin's Big Idea' exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London. The NHM is one of the most prestigious, richest, and beautiful buildings I know, with a priceless collection of fossils and other natural wonders, supported by taxpayers' millions of pounds. It has become a temple to Darwin.

A pair of mockingbirds, described as 'two of the most important scientific specimens in the world' were displayed on a purple velvet cushion. Darwin had noted 'marked differences' between them. In fact, they looked almost identical; the supposed differences were not stated. Darwin's big idea was that since differences occurred within a species, all living things could have (and so did) come by 'descent with modification' from a common ancestor. That more or less sums up the exhibition.

Next came a little green iguana creeping round in a glass cage, and models of two sorts of Galapagos iguana, one that could graze on seaweed and another that ate cactus. These appeared to be 'well marked varieties', but all three were still very obviously iguanas. We were supposed to believe that they had all come from a common ancestor (maybe, but you can bet

it was an iguana!). We saw tortoises, daisies and other organisms that varied from island to island. This, apparently, got Darwin asking 'Why would God have created different species of tortoise, finch, iguana, etc on each island?

Two short films played at either end of the exhibition. The first assured us that evolution was the central theory underlying all of biology, a proven fact, and indispensable to science. Only a few of the sillier religious people doubted it because they didn't know any better. At no stage were any serious contemporary arguments against evolution discussed.

The term 'species' was used throughout to refer to different forms that appeared to be merely varieties. Darwin refused to define the term species, blurring the distinction between a species and a variety so he could then call a new variety a new species to pretend that 'evolution' had taken place, when in fact it was merely a cyclical variation within a species.

The first film showed an animation of the DNA double helix and said that 'modern discoveries in genetics supported evolution.' No examples were offered to support this bold assertion, nothing about the irreducible complexity of DNA, harmful nature of mutations, where DNA came from, just the statement that 'DNA proves evolution.'

Antibiotic resistant bacteria were said to show evolution 'happening right before our eyes'. There was no mention that antibiotic resistant bacteria have just increased in number due to excessive antibiotic use. When resistance is really due to a mutation, it's a degenerative mutation which prevents the bacterium metabolizing the antibi-

otic. This is no problem for the creationist and does not support evolution. Michael Behe has shown in his recent book 'The Edge of Evolution' that this is 'trench warfare', not an 'arms race' and really shows the limits of what natural selection and random mutation can do. This is the best example they have, but the bacterium remains a bacterium. Even in millions of years, how could a process like this turn a bug into a man? We weren't told.

The claim was made that medical advances depend on evolution, and that without it we could not understand germ resistance. 'Imagine' said a scientist 'if we had no understanding of evolution, what if we gave an HIV/AIDS patient some antiviral drugs, which worked in the test tube, but later we found some were resistant?' Of course it would make no difference at all. This medical doctor (SH) and any other creationist can easily see that variations in viruses occur and that antiviral drugs may not get them all. Viruses have no check-and-repair mechanism and so mutate wildly, and antiviral drugs never were that good anyway.

Since he raised the subject, perhaps this scientist might reflect on 'what if' men and women had practiced Biblical sexual morality? We would then have avoided the terrible and costly AIDS epidemic. Evolution has never led to a single medical advance, but disobedience to God's word has caused immeasurable suffering through various sicknesses, as the excellent bestseller '*None of These Diseases*' by Dr S. McMillen (ISBN 0-8007-5719-X) shows. The assertion that medical science and health depend on the acceptance of Darwinian evolution (and by implication are hindered by religious faith) was perhaps the most offensively worthless statement in the whole exhibition.

A computer game showed orange and green insects pecked off by birds as the background colour was changed by moving a slider, nicely illustrating differential survival, as in the peppered moth story. This is fine, but doesn't explain where the creatures came from in the first place. No new genes were formed in the peppered moth studies, so they do not support evolution.

A research paleontologist, Greg Edgecombe, said that 'evolution was being tested all the time', but offered no examples. He said because the ID people would not say who the designer was, their case was invalid. But Biblical creationists like CSM do say Whom we believe the Designer is, and are dismissed even more contemptuously!!! A case of heads I win, tails you lose.

Twenty or so photos of human faces were displayed, and we were told that Darwin saw these facial expressions as evidence for evolution. They didn't say why. I find the uniqueness of each human face much more suggestive of a loving and creative God who wants to have a relationship with each of us as special individuals, or as scripture says, 'bring many offspring to Glory'.

The Malthus connection and Social Darwinism were noted briefly, to dismiss them, "Evolution cannot be used to justify political or social philosophies". Regardless of this unconvincing denial, Darwinistic thinking contributed to the hellish philosophies of Marxism, Nazism, Racism and 'Robber Baron' unrestrained free market capitalism. It is no good saying that evolution 'cannot be used to support political philosophies' when it *has* been, and with disastrous effects. The Lord Jesus warned that false prophets would come and lead many astray,

and would be recognised by their fruits.

The nearest thing to an admission of 'difficulties on theory' was a reference to *Archaeopteryx* in the context of asserting that Darwin's theory was true because it made predictions which were later fulfilled, in this case the prediction that intermediate forms would be discovered. In fact, Darwin lamented the LACK of intermediate forms, which his theory needed. *Archaeopteryx* is a bird with mildly reptilian features. Using it as key evidence underlines the extreme rarity of potential intermediate forms. Prominent evolutionists like Colin Patterson (of the Natural History Museum) and Stephen Jay Gould have admitted the absence or extreme rarity of intermediate forms, whereas if gradual evolution over millions of years were true the rocks should be full of them, as Darwin admitted in his '*Origin of Species*'. Unimpressive.

On the question of useless intermediate forms (the argument that should have sunk the theory in 1859) I heard a man tell his companion, as we looked at a bat's skeleton 'One objection to evolution is they say 'what use is half a wing?' (how true, I thought!). He continued '...but a flying squirrel is halfway towards a wing and they can fly pretty well'. I resisted the temptation to ask him to plot me a course from squirrel's baggy skin to a bird's wing along these lines, as well as explain the bird's unique limbs, lung and brain developing, by chance, simultaneously. You only have to state these problems to see how ridiculous his statement was. How easily we humans are fooled.

A display showed that bats, fishes, birds, men and various other creatures had topologically similar forelimbs and five digit 'hands'. Next to this were videos of the

development of fish, chicken and pig embryos, and our attention was drawn to similarities, which like the pentadactyl limb were asserted to show 'homology'; evidence of evolution. But they weren't particularly similar, and since they all start off as a fertilised ovum and then develop vertebrate body plans (head, spine, belly, limbs etc) there should be some bits in common. The inference was that similarities between creatures (homology) point to common descent - but why don't they point to common design, or just what works best? The laws of physics and chemistry are inflexible, so there are only so many ways to design an organ. Similarities between different creatures can perfectly well be claimed to support design, just as many human-designed objects include wheels.

The flightless Galapagos cormorant was mentioned, an unfit, degenerate animal that had only survived due to the lack of island-based predators. After rats and dogs were introduced, it declined and is now threatened. Again, this shows natural selection/differential survival, but progress is downhill due to genetic deterioration, so clearly is going nowhere. This tells us nothing about the origin of cormorants.

Darwin's work with pigeons was mentioned, and we saw a dozen breeds with the quote '...if artificial selection could produce such diversity over a decade, what might natural selection produce over millions of years?' This is deceitful reasoning, since artificial breeding is intelligently directed, whereas natural selection isn't. Anyway, the results are still pigeons. Left to themselves, they would soon revert to the mean and the number of varieties would *reduce*, as Darwin acknowledged. Man considerably speeds up the process but only ever gets pigeons from pigeons, dogs from dogs,

sheep from sheep, etc.

There is no room to say more here. I believe the above is a fair representation, with criticisms added since there were none at the NHM. My friend and I thought this a highly one-sided presentation, more propaganda than science, that oversimplified and misled. It failed to identify, let alone address, the main objections to Darwinism. I wouldn't bother going.

Stephen Hayes

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist** *by Dr David Rosevear*

8 November p.7 Uniform chickens

"Modern livestock are little more than walking food factories, but by being bred to be super-productive they may well have lost natural abilities such as the capacity to fend off disease... They found that years of intensive inbreeding in commercial chickens had resulted in over half of their ancestral genes being lost from the population... This can leave them bereft of key genes, says Muir, who heads an international project to breed genes for traits such as disease resistance back into commercial birds. Wild birds may be able to provide the genes that industry chickens are missing, say the team."

Careful selection does not change a chicken into anything else. Natural selection such as allowing them to breed with wild birds gives healthy chicks with a range of chicken genes. We can observe variation within the chicken kind, but not evolution to something other than a chicken.

8 November p.28 Private life of the brain

Electrodes attached to the scalp can monitor the activity of various areas of the brain as a subject carries out calculations. Levels of uptake of oxygen and sugar can be analysed in the bloodstream but the surprising result is that the brain consumes the same amounts of these whether being exercised with arithmetic or at rest with eyes closed. What exactly is the idling brain up to?

“Whatever it does, it fires up whenever the brain is unoccupied and burns white hot, guzzling more oxygen, gram for gram, than your beating heart... the brain may be doing important things while apparently stuck in neutral.”

Brain scans using radioactive glucose have identified the areas of the brain that go into overdrive when conscious work switches off, yet quieten down as soon as the person starts a mental exercise. **“Measurements of metabolic activity showed that some parts of this network devoured 30 per cent more calories, gram for gram, than nearly any other area of the brain.”** The evidence of fMRI shows a brain system involved in daydreaming, as reported by the subjects: mulling over past experiences and speculating about the future. **“So important is this exercise, it seems, that the brain engages in it whenever possible, breaking off only when it has to divert its limited supply of blood, oxygen and glucose to a more urgent task.”** The default brain network is active in early sleep and may be sorting out and preserving memories of the day.

It seems that the brain consists of two interacting systems, nevertheless working independently of each other. This is strong evidence of design. The more we uncover the more complex we find things to be.

[Speaking for myself, I'm no good at daydreaming. Whenever I try it, my mind just wanders aimlessly.]

15 November p.43 The Matrix

We already knew that single cells of bacteria can communicate with one another by way of a tiny tube known as a pilus. In 2004 it was discovered that rat cells growing in a liquid in a Petri dish produce nanotubes (50 to 200 nanometres thick) by which they can pass proteins and mitochondria between each other. **“It is a previously unknown way in which cells can communicate over a distance.**

“The connections were not just between pairs of cells. Cells can send out several nanotubes, forming an intricate and transient network of linked cells lasting anything from minutes to hours. Using fluorescent proteins, the team also discovered that relatively large cellular structures, or organelles, could move from one cell to another by nanotubes... Gerdes [from Heidelberg University], meanwhile, continues to marvel at what is unravelling before his very eyes. ‘Whatever one can think of has been done by nature,’ he says. ‘It is unbelievable what the cell is able to do.’”

But is this a naturalistic phenomenon? Complex systems don't just invent themselves. They are devised by the creative God of nature.

22 November p.17 Big hips, big brain

“We have our broad-hipped ancestors to thank for our big brains. The capacious birth canal of a newly unearthed *Homo erectus* fossil shows we evolved to accommodate a bulging brain as long as 1.2 million years ago.”

But can the breadth of a mother's birth canal influence the brain size of her babies? Or *vice-versa*? Is there any correlation between these factors in populations today? Is this not another evolutionary *Just So* story?

6 December p.25 Water off a butterfly's back

"Butterfly wings – and lotus leaves – are able to repel water with ease because of the microstructures on their surface."

Water droplets cannot spread out on these surfaces and so run off, carrying dirt away with them. Now researchers have come up with a way of replicating the surface of a butterfly wing on a large scale in order to make self-cleaning windows and wind-screens. This is yet another example of copying the Lord's designs, while claiming that they happened by natural processes.



Surface of wing of monarch butterfly.
Image: A. Diaz, www.sxc.hu

6 December p.48 What's God got to do with it?

"Discussing the fact that the universe appears fine-tuned for our existence, Weinberg told Dawkins: 'If you discovered a really impressive fine-tuning...I think you'd really be left with only two explanations: a benevolent designer or a multiverse.' ...Is that really our only choice? Supernatural creator or parallel worlds? 'It is according to an article in this month's *Discover* magazine... 'Our uni-

verse may be but one of perhaps infinitely many universes in an inconceivably vast multiverse.' Folger quotes cosmologist Bernard Carr: 'If you don't want God, you'd better have a multiverse.'

"But the reason physicists talk about the multiverse as an alternative to God is because it helps to explain why the universe is so bio-friendly. From the strength of gravity to the mass of a proton, it's as if the universe were designed just for us. If, however, there are an infinite number of universes – with physical constants that vary from one to the next – our cosy neighbourhood isn't only possible, it's inevitable.

"But to suggest that if this theory doesn't pan out our only other option is a supernatural one is to abandon science itself. Not only is it an unfounded leap of logic, it suggests that intelligent design offers as valid an explanation as a cosmological theory does, and lends credence to creationists' mistaken claim that the multiverse was invented to serve as science's get-out-of-God-free card."

Discussing the multiverse idea, Michio Kaku asked: **"Why should I obey the law knowing that in some universe if I commit a crime I'm going to get away with it?"**

So the idea of a Creator must be dismissed because it is not classified as science and so is untrue. But history is not science either. If science is the study of repeatable experiments, the multiverse is not science. Evolution theory is not science because it is not repeatable and it cannot be verified. What's more, it flies in the face of many scientific laws such as the idea that you cannot make something from nothing, create order from an explosion or get genetic information by chance changes. And if a single self-creating universe via a big bang is unscientific

(something from nothing), then a multi-verse is infinitely less scientific.

The law of cause and effect points directly to the God of the universe, and history and revelation name Him as the Lord Jesus Christ. Men in the pre-Flood civilisation said to God ‘Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?’ (Job 22). Now, at the other end of history, we see that men are ‘ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.’ (II Tim 3).

13 December p.17 Meteorite splash kick-started life

“The impact of meteorites whizzing into primordial oceans may have created the amino acids, the building blocks of life.”

High pressure impacts can create ammonia and experiments show that with carefully selected ingredients, some fatty acids, amines and glycine can be formed. This is simple organic chemistry such as was thought by Urey and Miller to be part of the origin of life story back in 1953.

The fact that folk are still trying to figure out this problem is proof that they do not have an explanation of how the first living cell arrived. How did only left-handed stereo-isomers of amino acids combine in specific orders to make proteins? In the living cell, it requires about a hundred particular

proteins together with DNA to synthesise one protein, and then other molecules to fold it into its desired shape.

20/27 December p.7 Earliest spider web
“Has the world’s oldest spider web been found? Strands 140 million years old were found inside a piece of amber on a UK beach and look similar to those made by modern orb spiders, says Martin Brasier of the University of Oxford. The fossil web beats the previous record-holder found in Lebanon by around 10 million years.”

So no evolution there then, Martin!

20/27 December p.70 The years of thinking dangerously

New Scientist asked a panel of its experts to choose between Darwin and Galileo as to who had done most to cut Man down to size. Galileo was criticised by the church of his day for saying that the Earth is not the centre of the universe. Charles Darwin was likewise criticised by the Victorian church for saying that Man is not the pinnacle of God’s creation, but is related to other primates.

The experts were all Darwinists – Lawrence Kraus, Daniel Dennett, Steve Jones, Michael Ruse, Matt Ridley among others, and not surprisingly almost all awarded the crown for dangerous thinking to Darwin. Surely history will judge that of the two contenders, Darwin got it wrong.

The new year, 2009, will mark the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of his book *On the Origin of Species*. The Natural History Museum has put on a Darwin exhibition to celebrate. It contains a lock of hair

Aaaagghh!!
And this is supposed
to help start life???



from Darwin's beard. When in Italy I was treated to a view of the jawbone of St. Anthony, and other relics. Darwinism too, it seems, is also a religion. In January we were treated in the same week to a Christian, a Jew and a Muslim each idolising Darwin on Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* religious slot.

3 January 2009 p.8 When Earth really was the blue planet

"Dry land may be something of a novelty. Until around 2.5 billion years ago our planet was almost completely covered by water, a model of the early Earth suggests. Today some 28 per cent of Earth's surface is above sea level. Exactly how the ratio of land to sea has varied through Earth's history is unclear, but it is generally agreed that the amount of continental crust has increased over time."

So the writer is going on a model of the Early Earth whose history is admittedly unclear. This model has been framed by those who are convinced of the billions of years' evolutionary scenario, so not surprisingly it is generally agreed.

By contrast, we have it on the highest authority that some four and a half thousand years ago the Earth became covered with water, and all but eight people had a sudden attack of the blues. Earth really was the blue planet for a little over a year.

3 January p.11 You can't hide from a four-eyed spookfish

"The deep sea is full of surprises, and the four-eyed spookfish is up there with the best of them. It is the first vertebrate found whose eyes use mirrors, rather than a lens, to focus light... It turns out that the spookfish (*Dolichopteryx longipes*) actually has just two eyes, but each eye has two parts, one looking up

and the other down. The team found that the part looking down uses thousands of tiny reflective crystals – acting like mirrors – that are angled in slightly different directions to focus light onto the retina... The spookfish is the only fish with eyes that have been shown to produce a focussed image when looking both up and down."

To look up towards the surface they use parts of the eyes with normal lenses, while to look down these deep sea dwellers use mirrors to see the many creatures who produce their own light, known as bioluminescence, in the murky depths.

10 January p.29 Immoral advances

"When research raises deeply felt objections, it is not enough just to dismiss them as 'irrational'.

"What would our forebears have made of test-tube babies, microwave ovens, organ transplants, CCTV and iPhones? ...Nevertheless, there are certain innovations that many people find unpalatable.

"Leaving aside special interest attitudes such as the fundamental Christian denial of evolution, [but hold on a minute, poll after poll have shown us to be a significant proportion of the population] many controversies over scientific advances are based on ethical concerns. In the past, the main areas of contention have included nuclear weapons, eugenics and experiments on animals, but in recent years the list of 'immoral' research areas has grown exponentially. In particular, reproductive biology and medicine have become ripe for moral outrage: think cloning, designer babies, stem-cell research, human-animal hybrids, and so on."

It would seem that our distaste is based on 'heuristics', rules of thumb that we have evolved over the millennia, since there are

no moral absolutes. We say ‘Do not play God’, that is, ‘Do not tamper with nature’. Genetically modified food is unnatural and so is regarded as amoral, according to a Felix Frankfurter professor at Harvard. Parents who might want to add genes for desirable traits to their children’s embryos would be regarded as Frankenstein, just because it is ‘unnatural’. Of course, such a practice could produce abnormalities, but this is regarded as a safety issue rather than a moral one.

“Should we legalise a market in donor organs such as kidneys?” This puts poor people at risk. **“We should challenge the idea that repugnance is a reliable moral guide and the ultimate arbiter.”**

When you set out with the notion that there is no absolute authority with His Ten Commandments, anything goes. The CSM has opposed evolution theory for 77 years. We need your prayer support as we challenge those who have been brainwashed. The Darwin bicentenary is a great opportunity for all of us.

17January p.6 Heal yourself, with stem cells’ help

Just as president elect Barack Obama is poised to sweep away restrictions on research using embryonic stem cells, a new treatment based on the drug Mozobil promises to harness individuals’ own stem cells to help them heal themselves. Scientists at Imperial College, London found that Mozobil, a drug already in production, together with natural growth factors also available commercially, can free up specific types of bone marrow stem cells in mice, sending them into the bloodstream to target areas such as cardiac tissue after a heart attack. This treatment would not involve the sacrifice of embryos, though it does not cover all cell types. Sara Rankin says **“We’re simply boosting what’s going on natural-**

ly, and we’ve shown that we can selectively mobilise different types of stem cell.” MSCs grow into muscle and bone, and so have the potential to... accelerate healing of broken bones or ligaments. They also damp down inflammation, and so could be used to treat autoimmune diseases. EPCs repair blood vessels and form new ones, so they have the potential to restore vital blood supplies to tissues damaged by strokes or heart attacks.”

As well as this treatment and the use of embryonic stem cells, one can induce pluripotent stem cells produced by introducing genes that coax skin and other cells back into an embryonic-like state.

This new natural, relatively cheap treatment could become available to treat humans. We are wonderfully made with this built-in ability to heal ourselves.

17 January p.12 Self-replicator suggests life began with RNA

This and the article on page 29 both hypothesise on the mechanism by which life arose on its own. They can’t both be right, and neither need be. It illustrates the degree of wild guesswork employed by evolutionary scientists.

“A synthetic molecule that performs an essential function of life – self-replication – could shed light on the origin of all living things. The lab-born strand of ribonucleic acid (RNA) can evolve in a test tube to double itself ever more swiftly. “Joyce and Lincoln created their RNA enzyme, or ribozyme, called R3C, from scratch to perform a single function: stitching two shorter RNAs together to create a clone of itself.” Other ingredients enable the system to grow by amplification in a soup of RNA monomers. Two problems with this approach are that intelligence was required to synthesise the

ingredients in such a way that they would react, and secondly that for RNA to be of any use, it has to carry coded information and not be simply a repeating sequence.

The article concludes: **“The true story of the origin of life will always remain elusive, however. It is a historical problem that we’re never going to be able to verify.”**

Of course, there is a particular history Book that explains things.

17 January p.29 The acid test

Here is another origin-of-life quest, this time at Bumpass Hell in a volcanic park in northern California, appropriately enough, undertaken by a Mr Dreamer. Could life have begun amid the boiling sulphuric acid laden clays of volcanoes?

Not surprisingly, the article admits: **“Still, huge gaps remain in our knowledge of how life began. The first genetic material might have been RNA, but equally it might have been some other, unknown molecule. And which of early Earth’s varied environments was the one that first spawned life – did it happen in a deep-sea hydrothermal vent, on frigid polar sea ice or in boiling cauldrons of clay and water like the ones at Bumpass Hell? We just don’t know.”**

This is a very telling quotation!

Polymers in the living cell cannot be made outside the cell with its enzymes. Bonds between the nucleotides / amino acids of RNA and DNA / proteins break more readily than they form.

We can also dream about how genetic information built up to transform protozoa into people over billions of years!

24 January p.18 Alarm-call chemical to speed healing

“Injections of a natural ‘SOS’ chemical increased the blood supply to damaged

muscle in rats. Damaged mammalian cells produce sialyl Lewis^x, a sugar that summons stem cells from the bone marrow in order to build extra blood vessels and feed the tissue.” A Canadian scientist, by injecting extra sialyl Lewis^x into damaged hind limbs of rats, has increased the number of blood vessels and hastened healing, compared to controls.

24 January p.19 Plant cells harnessed to build new drugs

“The chemical complexity of alkaloids makes creating new ones in the lab, or even giving existing ones slightly different properties, very difficult.”

Scientists from MIT have modified a gene for an enzyme in the Madagascar periwinkle in order to synthesise a range of new alkaloids that could have medical uses. This flower naturally makes an alkaloid via a complex series of chemical reactions. We cannot make an alkaloid, and far less can we make the DNA and RNA for coding for the alkaloid. It is not that the little periwinkle is clever. The God who made this flower made all of the plants on Day three of Creation Week. Lord, how manifold are thy works. In wisdom hast thou made them all.

24 January p.34 Uprooting Darwin’s tree

In 1837 Charles Darwin first drew a tree-like structure with a ‘protozoan’ at its base and plants and beasts at the ends of the branches. Lower branches had species that are now extinct. **“But today the project lies in tatters, torn to pieces by an onslaught of negative evidence. Many biologists now argue that the tree concept is obsolete and needs to be discarded. ‘We have no evidence at all that the tree of life is a reality,’ says Eric Baptiste. That bombshell has even persuaded some that**

our fundamental view of biology needs to change.”

Genetic studies have changed the way we regard similarities within the biosphere. Things that appear related may vary in their genetic make up, and vice-versa. (Nematode worms and humans appear to have much in common!) Because dissimilar creatures share some gene sequences, it is now considered that they have passed genes ‘horizontally’, and some have combined together to form chimeras; for example, caterpillars and moths. Bacteria and archaea are already known to swop genes, but a piece of snake DNA found in cows leads workers to conclude that horizontal gene transfer is more common, even in multi-celled creatures. Almost half of human genes are thought to have been imported to us by viruses! (Being created in the image of God is, of course, regarded as a primitive myth by these wise men.)

“Both he [Baptiste] and Doolittle are at pains to stress that downgrading the tree of life doesn’t mean that the theory of evolution is wrong – just that evolution is not as tidy as we would like to believe ... Rose goes even further. ‘The tree of life is being politically buried, we all know that,’ he says. ‘What’s less accepted is that our whole fundamental view of biology needs to change.’”

Change to something more fundamentalist! The fact that different creatures share the same or similar genes is evidence of an intelligent Designer. Genes coding for enzymes for aiding digestion, for instance, must be similar in animals with similar diets.

31 January p.5 Curriculum evolves

The Texas State Board of Education has voted 8 to 7 to remove the wording that school students can debate the strengths and weaknesses of science theories. This clause had permitted teachers to cast doubt

on evolution in lessons and text books. Seemingly the board does not regard critical appraisal as part of the education system, preferring dogmatic instruction.

The Texas Board is also standing in the way of the Institute of Creation Research’s efforts to gain accreditation for their post-graduate degrees. ICR had accreditation in California, but have now moved their school to Texas. Please pray about this.

31 January p.28 Our unknown solar system

Having explained how they think that the solar system formed from a gas cloud **“Once upon a time, 4.6 billion years ago”** (as in Grim(m)’s fairy tales, the article begins to have doubts. **“But when it comes to certain details, the accretion model becomes rather hand-wavy... For a start, no one really knows exactly how metre-sized boulders coalesced into bodies tens of kilometres across. Solid objects that small would have been buffeted around by the pressure of the gas surrounding them and sent spiralling into the sun before they could ever get together.”**

One also must wonder why the sun and moon appear the same size in the sky. Total eclipses are **“the most glorious pieces of natural theatre.”** But of course, they say, what we see today is not as it was in the beginning when the moon was closer to earth, nor how it will look in millions of years’ time when the moon has receded further. They think it is a happy accident of history that we arrived in time to marvel at the passing spectacle.

Compared with moons of other planets, ours is **“simply too big relative to Earth’s own size to have formed easily by either of these processes... And here’s the best bit. Such a big moon is a big boon for life on Earth. As Earth spins on its axis, it has a natural tendency to wobble, owing**

to the varying pull on it from other bodies such as the sun. The unseen hand of the moon's gravity gently damps that wobble, preventing rotational instabilities which would otherwise have caused dramatic changes in Earth's climatic zones over time. Such instabilities would have made it much more tricky for life to get started on our planet." What good fortune that we are here because the moon is so large, and that we can enjoy that glorious piece of natural theatre. To a non-evolutionist, it's almost as if the whole solar system was specially designed. The article goes on to wonder where comets come from. It refers to the hypothetical Oort's Cloud that has **"never been seen"**, nor can be with our present probes. Is the solar system unique in our galaxy? **"The simple, honest answer is that we still don't know"**.

And the final unknown cited here is **"How will it all end?"** If the contributors to this piece weren't so sure of their 4.6 billion year past, they might consider a not-too-distant future when the Creator Himself will return in power and great glory.

31 January p.41 Evolution's final frontiers

New Scientist here asks **"the world's most eminent evolutionary biologists to identify the biggest gaps remaining in evolutionary theory."**

Kenneth Miller said: **"I don't think there are basic 'gaps' in the theory of evolution, which has proven to be a remarkably flexible scientific framework, brilliantly accommodating new data and even new fields of science, like molecular genetics. However, the most profound unsolved problem in biology is the origin of life itself."** As others have noted, a theory that can explain everything explains nothing.

Frans de Waal asks: **Why do humans blush? We're the only primate that does so in response to embarrassing situations (shame), or when caught in a lie (guilt), and one wonders why we needed such an obvious signal to communicate these self-conscious feelings. Blushing interferes with the unscrupulous manipulation of others. Were early humans subjected to selection pressures to keep them honest? What was its survival value?"** Humans are the only primate created in the image of God, knowing right and wrong, shame and guilt. Before the fall, these earliest humans were 'naked and unashamed'. Survival value can be summed up by the question 'How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?'

Chris Wills says: **"The biggest gap in evolution theory remains the origin of life itself."** He talks with unwarranted optimism of possible natural processes for **"producing amino acids, primitive membrane-like structures and some of the building blocks of DNA and RNA... But the gap between such a collection of molecules and even the most primitive cell remains enormous."**

Elaine Morgan says **"So far, evolutionists have been unable to agree on an explanation of any of the distinctive physiological hallmarks of *Homo sapiens*."** She thinks that rather than developing on the savannah, early man was aquatic, possibly related to dolphins.

So there you have it from the experts: The theory of evolution has no basic gaps, says Kenneth Miller. However, it can't explain how life began in the first place. Frans de Waals says it can't explain why humans are aware of right and wrong, and so blush. Elaine Morgan sees no evidence that humans came from a chimp-like stock, but wonders if we were aquatic. (There are

legends about mermaids, and even modern films!) Is she pulling our leg?

Fossil Festival

The evolution-based Lyme Regis Fossil Festival is planned again for 2009 as part of the Darwin 200 celebrations. This event will take place between Friday 22nd May to 24th May with the Friday being a schools day. It is entitled 'Evolution in the Rocks.' They have a long list of partners including the Natural History Museum. CSM, along with friends, are planning a response with our own exhibition and evening speaking engagements. In 2007 we were kindly allowed to use Bethany Chapel in Coombe Street, and hope to have a presence there this year too. Your prayers for this would be much appreciated.

Andrew Sibley

Book Review

The Rise of the Evolution Fraud (Second Enlarged Edition) Malcolm Bowden, Sovereign Publications, 2008, pb., 224pp., ISBN 0-9506042-7-5. Available from CSM at £9.95 + P&P. (Summary of contents at www.mbowden.info/bkfraud)

It is a rare moment indeed when such a penetrating and powerful book as this appears in print. I remember getting a copy of the 1st edition back in the early '80s and having my eyes opened to what were sometimes distinctly unpleasant truths. Yet such a meticulously and thoroughly researched book as this could not be ignored. Its claims, and they are all well-documented, stand every test of investigation, which is

much more than can be said for many of those eminent public figures, educationists, philosophers, and yes, even politicians, who are its subjects. Bowden brings before us a veritable rogues gallery of men who have shaped our modern world, social engineers every one of them who have pursued just one agenda, the building of a society without God. That such men have always desired a godless world is hardly a surprise. It is the natural bent of man. But what does surprise and unsettle us is to be told the lengths to which some of them have gone to bring about such a world. The frightening aspect of it all is the fact that they have rarely worked alone. Each of them has walked onto a stage which has been carefully prepared for their arrival, and as each of them exits the stage, it is to give place to others who are even better prepared and who know their part well. Bowden shows that this is still operating today.

The author begins by introducing us very briefly to the pagan ideas of origins entertained by the Greeks. Then an equally brief excursion through the philosophers of the Middle Ages who perpetuated and expanded these ideas, and then it's straight into the 18th-century world of Erasmus Darwin (Charles' grandfather). From there it's a tour of a rogues gallery that stretches right into the 21st century as this updated edition includes many new exposures of the ongoing conspiracy. Bowden doesn't just criticise or point a finger. He burrows, and he burrows deep, into published works, diaries and even secret correspondence which was never meant to see the light of day. Many who have been taught to admire the achievements of these men, will find their opinions of them severely deflated. But I do urge everyone to read this book as it gives little-known but powerful ammunition for the forthcoming battle of Darwin's

birthday celebrations in 2009. It demands and rewards repeated reading.

Bill Cooper

Meetings in prospect

Monday to Friday, 4th to 8th May, Has Darwin had his day?

Residential creation holiday at Brunel Manor, Torquay, with CSM's David Rosevear and KT. In the 200th anniversary of the birth of Darwin, this week will be centred on examining the evidence in scripture for creationism and helping Christians to get biblically based answers to what can be a contentious subject. This varied and interactive week will include times of worship, teaching, opportunities for questions and an optional field-trip on one day, with coach travel included but any entrance fees extra. A super venue with en suite facilities, £225 (half board) or £262 (Sunday arrival). Contact 01803 329333 or see www.brunelmanor.com



Brunel Manor, Torquay, Devon

Monday to Friday, 3rd to 7th August at Elim Family Centre, Eastbourne, Sussex, 9th European Creationist Congress, cost

£110 plus accommodation in B&Bs, contact 01323 732788.

Quotations

"See how often science has altered its very basis. Science is notorious for being most scientific in destruction of all the science that has gone before it. I have sometimes indulged myself in reading ancient natural history, and nothing can be more comic. In twenty years' time some of us may probably find great amusement in the serious scientific teaching of the present hour, even as we do now in the systems of the last century."

Charles Spurgeon

"Evolution involves living things which are both micro and macroscopic and the theory claims the micro has evolved into the macro over vast quantities of time, i.e. dinosaurs into birds over millions of years or hydrogen into people over billions of years. For such a process to be claimed true, it must be observed happening at both levels and the best comment we have had on this process actually comes from Richard Dawkins himself. In an interview with Bill Moyers, NOW, 3 Dec 2004 PBS USA: Moyers asked: "Is evolution a theory, not a fact?" Dawkins replied: "Evolution has been observed. It's just that it hasn't been observed while it's happening."

Add to that the claims by Prof Steve Jones (that the evolution of humans has stopped - BBC Radio 4, Today programme, 7 October 2008) and you have an unobserved process, even though the atoms that make up the observed human are largely unobservable. Evolution as a concept is definite-

ly used as the framework into which living or dead entities are fitted into place in a neat diagram of evolution, but this is not evidence and it is not science - it is a world view imposed on the data and accepted by blind faith."

John Mackay

Stop Press - Genesis Expo Extension

The postman has been trudging up our hill to deliver extra post ever since the CSM mailing went out before Christmas. This is no surprise for you? I think you must know exactly what this extra post is all about. You have joined in the building up of Nehemiah's walls. What an inspiration is that book of Nehemiah!

Yes, our architect has been instructed to engage a building contractor, because at long last the first part of the Genesis Expo extension can go ahead. Splendid news you will agree. And we don't have to worry about paying for the first of the three stages because the postman brought your offerings. Like Nehemiah of old we thank the Lord who made heaven and earth, because He told you about our need. We are rejoicing especially to be moving forward at last because of late the opposition has been intense. The postman was bringing huge

encouragement from you, yet so much was going wrong and having to be repaired at the Expo – two roofs leaking badly, water leaking in both flats (not to do with the roofs), two boilers refusing to work just as the recent very cold spell set in, etc. The manager has felt like the Sorcerer's Apprentice on more than one occasion! Such a mountain of difficulties that we knew we must be on His right path to have roused such opposition from the enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator. But remember those walls were indeed built in 52 days, in spite of opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem. Nehemiah trusted in the Lord's provision, and so do we.

DR & JR



Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

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